

Strategic Rail Planning Initiatives

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Kevin Page

Director of Rail Transportation

Overview of Rail Funding Initiatives (1)

- ❑ Existing rail programs currently favor freight rail initiatives
 - Rail Industrial Access
 - Promotes removal of trucks from roadways through industrial sidetrack development
 - Rail Preservation
 - Promotes preservation of rail service through maintenance, improvement and expansion of shortlines

Overview of Rail Funding Initiatives (2)

❑ Rail Enhancement Fund

- Provides funding for both freight and passenger rail initiatives
 - Policy goal calls for promotion of passenger rail service even for freight rail improvements
 - Lack of passenger rail “champion” in Virginia
 - Projects granted without preliminary engineering or understanding of a standard agreement have led to slowdown in the effectiveness of program

Overview of Rail Funding Initiatives (3)

❑ VTA2000 Funds

- \$65M for rail improvements to benefit passenger rail in Washington, D.C. to Richmond corridor
 - Funds provided without
 - Governance in place to identify responsibility of all parties – MOU and Master Construction Agreement had to be created and negotiated
 - Public benefit for improvements made had to be determined
 - Valid cost estimates had to be calculated years later following preliminary engineering
 - Resulted in loss of time, scope creep, and funding shortfall

Achieving a Strategic Rail Vision

DRPT's Rail Challenge

- ❑ DRPT will proactively answer the “big picture” questions...
 - Where will strategic investments be made?
 - When will these investments be made and by whom?
 - What will be the outcomes and benefits?
 - How will these investments be implemented, used, and monitored?

DRPT's Approach to the Challenge to Guide Virginia in Rail Investment

- ☐ Development of a Transit Sustainability Policy document for all modes
- ☐ Development of a Passenger Rail Plan and Policy document
- ☐ Development of a Strategic Rail Investment Plan

Summary of Transit and Congestion Management Planning Documents

- ☐ Transit Sustainability Policy Document
- ☐ Transit Strategic Investment Plan
- ☐ Congestion Management Plan and Policy Document
- ☐ Congestion Management Strategic Investment Plan

Passenger Rail Plan and Policy Document

- ☐ Policy guide for the planning and development of passenger rail service
- ☐ Lead the Commonwealth by establishing a framework for the development and advancement of commuter and intercity passenger rail operations
- ☐ Include baseline identification and prioritization of passenger rail corridors
- ☐ Establish a benchmark standard for the evaluation and methodology on how to estimate ridership, revenue, and expenditures for new or expanded passenger rail services
- ☐ Develop a process to establish the governance structure necessary to fund, build, and operate the service and necessary capital improvements prior to the investment of public funds – shared risks and benefits

Strategic Rail Advisory Committee

- ❑ Establish a Strategic Rail Advisory Committee (SRAC) to work with DRPT in the development and implementation of rail planning documents
 - Comprised of representatives from freight, intercity passenger, and commuter railroads, a representative of the Rail Advisory Board (RAB), and key related stakeholders

Passenger Rail Plan and Policy Document Schedule

- ☐ June 2007: Establish the SRAC
 - Announce at July 2007 RAB meeting
- ☐ July – August 2007: Develop Scope of Services and conduct public outreach
 - July 2007: Develop Scope
 - August – September 2007: Public Outreach
- ☐ October 2007 RAB meeting: provide update
- ☐ October 2007: Consultant begins work
- ☐ August 2008: Draft Document for Public Comment
- ☐ September 2008: Final Document

Strategic Rail Investment Plan

- ❑ The Strategic Rail Investment Plan for Virginia will be the guide to lead the Commonwealth in passenger and freight rail development and strategy for the next 20 years
 - Build on the Transit Sustainability Policy Document and Statewide Passenger Rail Plan and Policy Document
 - Incorporate all rail needs updated from the June 2004 Rail Plan, Comprehensive Multimodal Freight Study, VTRANS, and DRPT and local/regional transportation plans
 - Prioritize corridor and strategic rail investments based on long term investment principles and funding streams requiring shared risk and shared benefit

Strategic Rail Investment Plan Schedule

- ❑ June 2007: Establish the SRAC
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Combined Strategic Rail Initiatives Work Plan (1)

- ☐ Working with the SRAC, DRPT will develop scopes for the development of the Statewide Passenger Rail Plan and Policy Document and the Strategic Rail Investment Plan
- ☐ DRPT will work to identify the necessary public and private resources to cover costs

Combined Strategic Rail Initiatives Work Plan (2)

- ❑ DRPT will conduct public outreach at the beginning of the process for each plan to include local governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Planning District Commissions, freight and passenger rail operators, economic development agencies, advocacy and special interest groups, and the general public

Combined Strategic Rail Initiatives Work Plan (3)

- ❑ Following scope development and identification of funding, DRPT will hire a planning consultant to execute the tasks and work product for each plan
- ❑ During the development of rail planning documents, the SRAC and the RAB will be involved through periodic updates and draft reviews

Summary of Rail Planning Schedule

- ❑ June 2007: Establish the SRAC
- ❑ July – August 2007: Develop Scope and conduct public outreach for Passenger Rail Plan and Policy Document
- ❑ **October – November 2007: Develop Scope and conduct public outreach for Strategic Rail Investment Plan**
- ❑ October 2007 RAB meeting: provide update on two rail planning documents
- ❑ October 2007: Consultant begins work on Passenger Rail Plan and Policy Document
- ❑ **November 2007: Consultant begins work on Strategic Rail Investment Plan**
- ❑ August 2008: Draft Passenger Rail Plan and Policy Document for Public Comment
- ❑ September 2008: Passenger Rail Plan and Policy Document (Final)
- ❑ **October 2008: Draft Strategic Rail Investment Plan for Public Comment**
- ❑ **November 2008: Strategic Rail Investment Plan (Final)**



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
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www.drpt.virginia.gov

info@drpt.virginia.gov

804-786-4440



www.drpt.virginia.gov